

Remarks

The abstract has been rewritten to conform with the 150 word limit under current regulations.

Formal drawings are being presented to replace the drawings that were originally filed with this application. No new matter has been added.

Claims 12, allowed in the office action, has been amended on line 25 to remove a duplicate word. Claims 13 and 14 also allowed in the office action are retained as originally filed.

New claims 15-22 have been added to claim the invention over the prior art and in particular the reference to Miller used in rejecting original claims 1-11 that have now been cancelled.

New independent claim 15 specifically recites a trailer having a plurality of gate assemblies wherein each gate has a first end that is connected through a first roller arrangement retained in a first rail fixed to said first side wall and a second end that is connected through a second roller arrangement retained in a second rail fixed to the second side wall. Each gate has a length between the first and second ends that is greater than a length between said first and second side walls and as a result the first roller arrangement is located in the first rail at greater distance from the rear door than the second roller arrangement in the second rail. The partitions in the prior art have a length that is less than the width of a trailer and nowhere is suggested that the vertical members of a rail could be offset to accommodate for a gate having a greater length than the width of the trailer. Claim 15 defines a purpose of the gate having a length greater than the width of the trailer such that when a gate is moved from a horizontal position adjacent the roof to a vertical position with respect to the floor after an animal enters the enclosed structure through the rear door as creating a corresponding individual ramped stall with respect to the first and second side walls for the animal. This feature is clearly not suggested by the prior art and an individual ramped stall is important as each animal can be transported in substantially a same degree of comfort rather than being aligned in stall that is parallel with to the side walls. Further, claim 15 recites that each gate may be moved from the vertical position and returned to a horizontal position to eliminate an individual ramped stall so that the animal may exit from the enclosed structure

through a forward door. This feature is clearly not suggested in the prior art and as disclosed in the specification, an animal may be lead in a forward direction without the creation of stress that often occurs when an animal is required to back out of a trailer. Thus, the structure and functional relationship thereof now present in claim 15 defines of the prior art.

Claim 16-22 depend on claim 15 and further define over the prior art with specific recitations to the various structural components that allow a gate assembly that is longer than the trailer is wide to be freely moved between a horizontal stored position to a vertical position to create ramped stalls.

Claim 16 recites specific details of the rails that allow the first and second roller arrangements move in a plane parallel with the first and second rails on movement of a gate between the horizontal and vertical positions. For smooth operation it is important that the roller arrangements are located in such plane.

Claim 17 recites a guides that are respectively located adjacent the first sections of the rails to limit a lateral force applied to a gate. It is important to limit the lateral force as animals often push against a gate when being transported and this structure reduces the possible damage to the rollers and other members, nowhere in the prior art is this structure or feature suggested.

Claim 18 recites specific details of the roller such the shaft of a roller is in perpendicular alignment with respect to a corresponding rail.

Claim 19 recites locking means that engage said first and second rails to retain said each gate in either a horizontal or vertical position.

Claim 20 recites curtain means are attached to the roof and extendable therefrom to limit the visibility from an individual stall. This can be an important feature when transporting animals to keep a calm demeanor.

Claim 21 recites that the third section of each rail has a forward and an aft branch such that a gate may be moved in either a forward or aft direction when in a storage position.

Claim 22 recites resilient means on which a gate rests in a horizontal position to attenuate noise that may occur when a trailer is traveling on a rough road. This

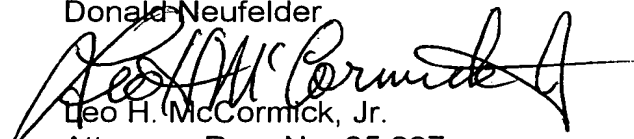
too can be an important feature in reducing stress in an animal when transporting from one location to an other location.

The specific structure and functional limitations for the gate arrangement added by dependent claims 16-22 can be important in developing an environment to reduce stress in transporting an animal from one location to a second location.

In conclusion claims 12-22 now present in this application define over the prior art and are in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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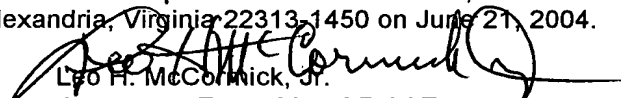


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Encl: Post Card Receipt
2 Sheets Formal Drawings

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